

**In the Claims:**

1-56. (Canceled).

57. (New) A stent assembly, comprising:

- a) an expandable tubular stent body, which is formed of a plurality of ring sections, having at least one connecting support member extending between adjacent ring sections and which has a cover connecting member with at least two penetrating elements integrally formed with a said connecting support member; and
- b) a stent cover which is disposed over at least a portion of said tubular stent body, which is secured to said tubular stent body by said cover connecting member with said at least two penetrating elements extending through said stent cover and extending over an outer surface of said stent cover

wherein a first of said at least two penetrating elements extends through said stent cover at a first location of said stent cover adjacent to a first edge of said stent cover and wherein a second of said at least two penetrating elements extends through said stent cover at a second location of said stent cover adjacent to a second edge of said stent cover.

58. (New) The stent assembly of claim 57 wherein said stent cover has a cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge abutting a second longitudinally oriented edge.

59. (New) The stent assembly of claim 57 wherein said stent cover has a cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge overlapping a second longitudinally oriented edge.

60. (New) The stent assembly of claim 57 wherein said stent cover extends from a first end of said stent body to a second end of said stent body.

61. (New) The stent assembly of claim 57 wherein said stent cover is formed of a biocompatible non-thrombogenic material.

62. (New) The stent assembly of claim 57 wherein at least one said ring section at an end of said stent body has undulations and at least one said connecting member extends between said ring section having undulations and an adjacent ring section.
63. (New) The stent assembly of claim 57 wherein said stent cover is secured to said stent body by undulations of at least one said ring section at an end of said stent body which extend over an end portion of said stent cover.
64. (New) The stent assembly of claim 57 having a plurality of said ring connectors extending between adjacent said ring sections.
65. (New) A stent assembly, comprising:
- a) an expandable tubular stent body, which is formed of a plurality of ring sections, having at least one connecting support member extending between adjacent ring sections and which has a cover connecting member with at least two penetrating elements integrally formed with a said connecting support member; and
  - b) a stent cover which is disposed over at least a portion of said tubular stent body, which is secured to said tubular stent body by said cover connecting member with said at least two penetrating elements extending through said stent cover and extending over an outer surface of said stent cover
- wherein said stent cover is secured to said stent body by undulations of at least one said ring section at an end of said stent body which extend over an end portion of said stent cover.
66. (New) The stent assembly of claim 65 wherein said stent cover has a cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge abutting a second longitudinally oriented edge.
67. (New) The stent assembly of claim 65 wherein said stent cover has a cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge overlapping a second longitudinally oriented edge.
68. (New) The stent assembly of claim 65 wherein said cover connecting member has at least two penetration elements, a first of said at least two penetration elements extending through said stent cover at a first location on said stent cover adjacent to a first edge of said stent

cover and a second of said at least two penetration elements extending through said stent cover at a second location on said stent cover adjacent to a second edge of said stent cover.

69. (New) The stent assembly of claim 65 wherein said stent cover extends from a first end of said stent body to a second end of said stent body.

70. (New) The stent assembly of claim 65 wherein said stent cover is formed of a biocompatible non-thrombogenic material.

71. (New) The stent assembly of claim 65 wherein at least one said ring section at an end of said stent body has undulations and at least one said connecting member extends between said ring section having undulations and an adjacent ring section.

72. (New) The stent assembly of claim 65 having a plurality of said ring connectors extending between adjacent said ring sections.